In the Claims:

- **Please cancel claims 23 and 24 without prejudice.**

- **Please amend claims 15 - 22, 25, and 27 - 30 as follows:**

15. (twice amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 [from the Sequence Listing].

16. (twice amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 [from the Sequence Listing].

17. (twice amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 3 [from the Sequence Listing].

18. (twice amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 4 [from the Sequence Listing].

19. (twice amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 5 [from the Sequence Listing].

20. (twice amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 6 [from the Sequence Listing].

21. (twice amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 7 [from the Sequence Listing].

22. (twice amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 8 [from the Sequence Listing].

25. A kit for the analysis of fungal infections with azole derivative-resistant fungal strains, containing at least one nucleotide sequence[s] selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7[,] and SEQ ID NO: 8.

27. (once amended) A method for detecting azole derivative-resistant fungal cells in clinical material, comprising the steps of:

a) extraction of fungus-specific nucleic acids from clinical material; and

b) hybridization of the fungus-specific nucleic acids with hybridization probes which are directed against nucleic acid segments of azole derivative-resistant fungal cells,

wherein detection of the hybridized probes detects azole derivative-resistant cells,

wherein the hybridization probes are directed against a DNA segment from the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene,

wherein between steps a) and b) a PCR reaction is performed in which segments of the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene are amplified, and

wherein a primer for the PCR reaction is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4.

28. (once amended) A method for detecting azole derivative-resistant fungal cells in clinical material., comprising the steps of:

a) extraction of fungus-specific nucleic acids from clinical material; and

b) hybridization of the fungus-specific nucleic acids with hybridization probes which are directed against nucleic acid segments of azole derivative-resistant fungal cells,

wherein detection of the hybridized probes detects azole derivative-resistant cells,

wherein the hybridization probes are directed against a DNA segment from the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene (ERG16 gene) of the species Candida albicans,

wherein between steps a) and b) a PCR reaction is performed in which segments of the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene are amplified, and

wherein a primer for the PCR reaction is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4.

29. (once amended) A method for detecting azole derivative-resistant fungal cells in clinical material, comprising the steps of:

a) extraction of fungus-specific nucleic acids from clinical material; and

b) hybridization of the fungus-specific nucleic acids with hybridization probes which are directed against nucleic acid segments of azole derivative-resistant fungal cells,

wherein detection of the hybridized probes detects azole derivative-resistant cells,

wherein a [the] hybridization probe [probes] for step b) is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO: 8.

30. (once amended) A method for detecting azole derivative-resistant fungal cells in clinical material, comprising the steps of:

a) extraction of fungus-specific nucleic acids from clinical material; and

b) hybridization of the fungus-specific nucleic acids with hybridization probes which are directed against nucleic acid segments of azole derivative-resistant fungal cells,

wherein detection of the hybridized probes detects azole derivative-resistant cells,

wherein the hybridization probes are directed against a DNA segment from the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene,

wherein between steps a) and b) a PCR reaction is performed in which segments of the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene are amplified, and

wherein a hybridization probe for step b) is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO: 8.

- **Please add new claims 31 and 32, as follows:**

31. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the primers are SEQ ID NO: 1 and 2, and the probes are SEQ ID NO: 5 and/or 6.

32. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the primers are SEQ ID NO: 3 and 4, and the probes are SEQ ID NO: 7 and/or 8.

- **Please note claims 10, 12 and 13 remain pending without amendment, as set forth below:**

10. The method of claim 27, wherein a hybridization probe for step b) is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO:8.

12. The method of claim 29, wherein after hybridization, at least one washing step is performed at a temperature which is approximately 1°C less than the melting temperature (Tm) of the particular hybridization probe used.

13. The method of claim 30, wherein after hybridization, at least one washing step is performed at a temperature which is approximately 1°C less than the melting temperature (Tm) of the particular hybridization probe used.